

**Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 19, 2010**

The Bethany Beach Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee held a meeting on Friday, February 19, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. in the Town Meeting Room, 214 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930.

Members present: Carol Olmstead, who presided; Margaret Young, Mary Lou Urquhart, Mary Lou McNerney, Theo Loppatto, and Pam Szypulski.

Excused members: Pat Rogers, Gloria Farrar and Jane Fowler.

Also present: Diana Cowell; Lindsey Shallcross, Administrative Assistant.

Call to Order

Ms. Olmstead called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

She recognized the presence of Diane Cowell, who attended the meeting to discuss the possible opportunity of twinning the Town of Bethany Beach with Périers, France.

Approval of Minutes from the January 12, 2010 Meeting

After one correction, Ms. Loppatto made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. Young seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Announcements

Ms. Olmstead suggested changing the order of the agenda so that Ms. Cowell could speak about her experiences with Périers, France first. The Committee agreed. The revised order of the agenda is as follows:

- A. Letter from Mayor of Périers, France requesting possibility of twinning their town and the Town of Bethany Beach.
- B. Input Regarding Loop Canal Centennial
- C. Consideration of Postcards of Bethany Beach Publication
- D. Feedback Regarding Oral History Project
- E. Updates to Museum

Letter from Mayor of Périers, France Requesting Possibility of Twinning Their Town and the Town of Bethany Beach

Ms. Cowell acknowledged that her connection with Bethany Beach goes back about fifty years. She has had property in South Bethany for 24 years, and she and her husband have been living there since this past June. Her entire family has a deep relation to Bethany Beach.

Ms. Cowell explained that Périers, France is located on the Cherbourg Peninsula. The terrain has marshy areas, just like Bethany Beach. She described the people of the town as being very warm and welcoming.

Ms. Cowell has traveled to Perrier six times, adding that the people in Perrier have a continuing connection with Americans who visit there. The people that they met in Périers, France visited them often. A number of Périers residents have also visited America. They welcome Americans to stay in their homes, including veterans or anyone else who is interested.

Ms. Cowell expressed that she has tremendous interest in promoting friendship between France and America, and feels that twinning the two towns together would be a positive gesture. She added that the people of Périers, France have also expressed that they are very interested in twinning with Bethany Beach. She feels that many residents of Bethany Beach are retired from the military so they would probably want to be involved with the twinning with Périers.

Périers, France has shown their interest in the following ways:

- They named several streets off of heroes and those from the Ninetieth Division.
- They named a monument after Ms. Cowell's father, who was an Officer during the battles that took place in areas surrounding Périers, France.
- Every V-Day they place American Flags on the tombstones at the American cemetery.
- They welcome American visitors to stay in their homes.

Ms. Olmstead acknowledged that she is very interested in this idea, and questioned how the idea of "twinning" is achieved. Ms. Cowell expressed that it's to promote personal relationships, suggesting that the Town of Bethany Beach could recognize visitors from France. She noted that France has celebrations on June 6<sup>th</sup>, and Ms. Olmstead proposed that the Committee could send them a letter acknowledging their holiday.

Ms. Olmstead suggested that the Committee think of a way to make it an occasion for the Town when there are visitors from Périers, France.

The Committee members expressed their appreciation to Ms. Cowell for taking the time to attend their meeting and offer ideas on the Town twinning with Périers, France.

#### Input Regarding Loop Canal Centennial

Public Works Director, Brett Warner, temporarily joined the meeting to provide an update on the Loop Canal Centennial.

He reported that he spoke to two bidders. J & J Bulkheading Inc. bid to build the dock for \$2,000. Ms. Olmstead noted that it is a good idea to get more than one bid before making a decision.

Mr. Warner added that there shouldn't be too many permit issues.

Ms. Olmstead questioned if the dock will be on the ground. Mr. Warner responded that a portion of it will be, but not all of it. Mr. Warner acknowledged that he will coordinate the construction of the dock. It will be 4 by 15 feet, which Mr. Warner added won't be a complex procedure to go through.

Ms. Olmstead asked if it's possible to install it so that it can be removed in the winter. Mr. Warner replied that it can be.

The Committee members expressed their appreciation to Mr. Warner for his efforts and input towards this project. They will meet with him again at a later time to discuss this project further.

#### Consideration of Postcards of Bethany Beach Publication

Ms. Olmstead reported that she tried contacting Elizabeth Bray, Acquisitions Editor of Arcadia Publishing, regarding the Postcard History Series but she hasn't heard back from her yet.

She sent her an e-mail asking what would be needed and expected to be accomplished from the Committee. The Postcard History Series book has both post cards and dialogue included in it.

#### Feedback Regarding Oral History Project

Ms. Young stated that her two interviews went very well.

Six interviews have been completed overall so far. Ms. Young is going to be interviewed as well as Ms. Fowler, since they are long time residents of Bethany Beach.

Ms. Olmstead suggested adding more people to be interviewed. The Committee created a list of six more possible residents.

#### Loop Canal Meeting Update

Ms. Olmstead asked for a report from the Loop Canal Committee.

Ms. Urquhart stated that they discussed having the Loop Canal Centennial ceremony following the Fourth of July Parade, on the same day. Ms. Loppatto added that it would have to be between 4:00 and 5:00 p.m.

Ms. Olmstead advised that it is already going to be a very busy day, so it might be better to have it on a different day. After further discussion, the Committee agreed that the date for this celebration should be on Thursday, July 8, 2010 around 4:00 p.m. The Town will be less crowded on a Thursday than on a Saturday.

The ideas for Loop Canal Anniversary are as follows:

- 1.) Bill Addy reading the diary of his grandmother, Jenny Addy, during the time that the Loop Canal was being built.
- 2.) Ms. Loppatto suggested having kayakers coming in to the dock, and then have a reception at the Town Hall.

It is going to be a “Then and Now” program that tells the story of how the dock was used then, compared to how it is used now.

Ms. Olmstead mentioned that the Committee may have to bring it forth to the Town Council before the plan becomes definite.

#### Updates to Museum

Ms. Young announced that a quote from Jenny Addy’s diary is in the museum.

#### Other Business

- Ms. Young mentioned that at the Town Council meeting, Mayor McClenny said that the Cultural and Historical Affairs Committee is working on a project for the Neff property, but she hasn’t heard anything about it.

Ms. Olmstead clarified that the Town Manager has taken over the responsibility of this project. He is getting bids for a plaque. It is a memorial in recognition of citizens in Southeastern Sussex County who served our military in foreign countries.

- The next meeting is scheduled for March 16, 2010 at 2:00 p.m.

#### Adjourn

Ms. Young made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Loppatto, the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Lindsey Shallcross  
Administrative Secretary